

PATENT APPLICATION

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Satoshi EJIMA et al.

Application No.: Rule 53(b) Continuation of 08/972,678 filed November 18, 1997

Filed: February 1, 2002

Docket No.: 032404.01

For: INFORMATION PROCESSING APPARATUS

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENTDirector of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the reference(s) listed on the attached PTO-1449. Unless otherwise indicated herein, one copy of each reference is attached. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the reference(s) be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

- ☒ 1. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed (a) within three months of the U.S. filing date of this non-CPA application, OR (b) before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits in the present application. No certification or fee is required.
- ☒ 2. The references were cited by or submitted to the Office in parent application No. 08/972,678, filed November 18, 1997, which is relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. §120. Thus, copies of these references are not attached. 37 CFR §1.98(d).

Respectfully submitted

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Date: February 1, 2002

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| Form PTO-1449<br>(REV. 8-83)  |  | US Dept. of Commerce<br>PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE |  | ATTY DOCKET NO.<br>032404.01         |  | APPLICATION NO.<br>Rule 53(b) Continuation of<br>08/972,678 filed November<br>18, 1997 |  |
| INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT<br><br>(Use several sheets if necessary) |  |   |  | APPLICANT(S)<br>Satoshi EJIMA et al. |  |  |  |
|   |  |   |  | FILING DATE<br>February 1, 2002      |  | GROUP  |  |

Received U.S. PTO  
10/060315  
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Examiner: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with M.P.E.P. 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.